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From the Director Arnie Olsen

Thanks to the hard work of many people, the Montana Historical Society is in the first phases of developing a new Montana History Center. On completing the center, we will be one of the leading western history museums and research centers in the nation. This is an exciting time to be involved with the Society, and we hope that all of you will help us make this new project a reality.

The legislature, with the strong support of Gov. Brian Schweitzer and the state congressional delegation, has approved \$7.5 million in bonding funds as seed money for the new center. This money has allowed the Society to begin negotiations for the purchase of thirteen acres and 250,000 square feet of existing space incorporated in the Capitol Hill Mall in Helena.

The facility is within easy walking distance of the Capitol building and would meet the Society's space needs for fifty to a hundred years. As most of you know, our current building was constructed in the early 1950s, and we have completely run out of room. A new building will allow us to create more and larger exhibits that will better display our impressive collection of artifacts and art.



Conceptual sketch of the new Montana History Center, by Mosaic Architecture.

We are in the process of doing the engineering, inspection, and preliminary architectural studies to ensure that the proposed facility is safe and can meet our needs, including those for security and climate control. Once that is completed we will negotiate with the current owners, who have expressed a strong interest in working with us. Nothing will happen overnight. In fact, we estimate that it will take four to five years before we can even begin remodeling.

We will need your support. The Montana History Foundation has agreed to take the lead in raising \$30 million from the private sector to complete the project. That's a lot of money. But we will save approximately \$20 million by using the existing facility and land, which has the potential to be converted into ideal space for the museum, research center, publications department, historic preservation office, and the Society's other programs.

As we move forward there will be sponsorship possibilities for businesses and individuals to associate their names with this exciting new project. If you are interested in learning more about them, please let me know or contact the Montana History Foundation at 406-449-3770.

A new Montana History Center will become a major destination for tourists interested in western art and history. Most importantly, the exhibits featured in the center will give young Montanans a greater understanding of what it means to be a part of this special place. A new history center will be good for Montana in many ways, and we think the entire state will continue to unite behind the project.

Please watch for further information about the new Montana History Center, and remember that, if you aren't one already, this is a great time to become a member of the Society. Thanks for all of your continued support.

Twenty-seventh Annual Western Rendezvous of Art Returns

The Western Rendezvous of Art once again promises four fun-filled days at sites around Helena. The forty-six members of the Northwest Rendezvous Group of Artists, who are the heart of rendezvous each year, draw people to the gala event from across the nation. This year they have invited thirteen other distinguished guest artists for the show to be held August 18-21.

The Montana Historical Society and the City of Helena Civic Center Board co-sponsor what is recognized as one of the most highly regarded art shows and sales in the West. The event includes one of the best art exhibits anywhere, a "Meet the Artists Autograph Party," two art seminars, a gala banquet and art sale, and the granddaddy of all Quick Draw events, which this year will be held at the historic Sieben Ranch.

The art show opens on Thursday, August 18, at 10:00 a.m. at the Civic Center and runs through Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon at the Society is the "Painting the Corps" artists' reception, followed by a western barbeque and the music of the Fat Bachelors on the Society lawn. Friday features two artists' lectures at the Civic Center followed by an autograph party. Saturday begins with a brunch and Quick Draw at the Sieben Ranch. The Rendezvous culminates with the banquet and art sale on Saturday night at the Civic Center.

For a full list of participating artists, more information, or to make advance discount reservations, call 406-442-4263, or e-mail westrdz@aol.com. Visit the web site at www.westrendart.com.

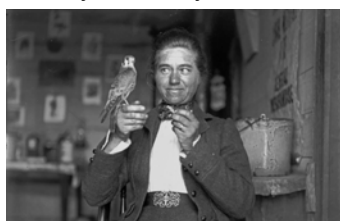


Rendezvous artist Quang Ho poses with one of the artists' models at the 2004 Quick Draw. Photograph by Tom Cook.

Society to Participate in Three Cultural and Aesthetic Projects

In 1975, the Montana legislature placed a percentage of the coal tax into a trust, the interest of which funds cultural and aesthetic projects across the state. This spring, the Society helped fashion three projects funded by the legislature through this unique program. The "**Identifying African American Heritage Resources in Montana**" project received a Cultural and Aesthetics Grant of \$14,000 to identify archival and other primary-source textual documentation, oral histories, photographs, art, objects, and places associated with the state's African American heritage. To complete the project, the Society will work with museums, libraries, archives, property owners, and members of the general public throughout the state to begin to compile a database of these precious items. The grant will fund the collection of information about known resources relating to black history in Montana and uncover heretofore little known or unknown resources. Once identified, information about these resources will be gathered in a searchable, dynamic database.

Archives staff will work with the Fort Harrison Military Museum Foundation, which received a \$3,000 Cultural and Aesthetic Grant for its "**Montana Veterans in the 21st Century Oral History Project.**" The grant will provide funds to conduct oral history interviews with Montana soldiers who served in various military branches and campaigns between 2001 and 2005. Thirty interviews, to be conducted in summer and fall of 2005, will provide a snapshot of Montana's military service at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The original interviews will be added to the Montana Historical Society's already extensive oral history collection.



Self portrait, by Evelyn Cameron.
MHS Photograph Archives

The Society's Photograph Archives worked with Prairie County Museum in Terry, Montana, to craft the project, "**The Online Catalog for the Evelyn Cameron Photographic Collection,**" which received a Cultural and Aesthetic Grant for \$16,700. Grant funds will be used to gather information and create a publicly accessible online catalog for Cameron's collection. Cameron's original glass plate negatives are

preserved at the Society. Grant funds will support research in Prairie County with people who knew Cameron, or whose families she photographed, in order to identify the subjects of her pictures. The images were taken between 1894 and 1928 during the early settlement period in the region. A web exhibit featuring selected Cameron photographs will accompany the online catalog. As a result, people all over the world will be able to access information about Cameron's images on the web and discover the rich cultural opportunities afforded by visiting Terry and other communities in eastern Montana.

Montana Boasts Five New National Register Listings

The Keeper of the National Register added five new Montana properties to the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Each of these properties is an important reminder of aspects of Montana's past.

Associated with the Hecla Consolidated Mining Company's silver and lead smelting operations at Glendale, Montana, **the Canyon Creek Charcoal Kilns** exemplify the type of charcoal production facilities used throughout the United States in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Prime examples of the architectural engineering that supported frontier industrial processes, the kilns reflect the broad patterns of frontier mining development.

Located between bustling downtown Helena and the state Capitol building, **Jesse and Martha Armitage's two-story, wood-frame home** was constructed in 1889. It is representative of the late nineteenth-century homes built as Helena transitioned from a rough mining town to a refined state capital.

Louis LaPierre built the gambrel-roofed **LaPierre Barn** in 1910. He was one of a number of French Canadians who came to Daniels County in the early twentieth century, and he brought new farming techniques with him from Saskatchewan. His large barn, known locally as the "LaPierre Horse Hotel," is a testament to the large-scale, mechanized methods he followed using multiple teams of horses and threshing equipment to harvest huge quantities of grain.

Located in downtown Three Forks, the **Three Valleys State Bank** has stood as an architectural landmark in the community since its construction in 1911. The building reflects the rise of state banks during the 1910s as well as the failure of many small banks during the 1920s. Now home to the Headwaters Heritage Museum, the Three Valleys State Bank building will soon boast of one of the perks of National Register listing: an interpretive marker that details its architectural and historical significance.

Since its construction in 1909, the **Gebo Barn** has become a local Fromberg landmark. Perched solidly above the Clarks Fork River, it endures as the model of "modern" barns and as a reminder of the boom years in Carbon County when coal mining and dry land farming brought population and prosperity to the Clarks Fork Valley.



Canyon Creek Charcoal Kilns, listed in the National Register on June 3, 2005. Photograph by Mike Ryan, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, June 2, 2001.

Montana Heritage Project Still Going Strong Ten Years Later

Spring remains the busiest season for the Montana Heritage Project, a Society-affiliated program funded by Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation. The Project, which celebrated its tenth anniversary this spring, works with high school teachers and students across the state to encourage in-depth community studies.

Among other activities, many schools fit final research field trips into their schedules as Harlowton did twice: once to try their hand at branding and once to study watershed management. It's the season, too, when schools host heritage events to share their findings with their communities and to thank those that have assisted them in their work. Great Falls Central Catholic High School held its program on May 3 as did Harlowton on May 16; Whitefish on May 26; and Libby, in cooperation with

the community library, on June 7. Summaries of these events can be found at the Montana Heritage Project fieldnotes pages: <http://www.montanaheritageproject.org/index.php/fieldnotes>.

Two of the Project's primary events occur toward the end of school as well: the Youth Heritage Festival and an annual student trip to Washington, D.C. During the annual Youth Heritage Festival, student representatives presented a summary of each school's research and findings. To celebrate its tenth anniversary, the festival also included a video reflection of the Project's contributions and a presentation by Dr. Alan Jabbour. As head of the Library of Congress's American Folklife Center, Jabbour developed the idea for the project and created charter documents with Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg.

Finally, four Simms High School students served as the Project's ambassadors to Washington D. C. On May 4, Crystal Tetzl, Heidi Tynes, Jessica Eastley, and Neah Parshall summarized their school's work on the impact of transportation changes in the Sun River Valley for the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James H. Billington.



Simms High School junior Neah Parshall at the Library of Congress, listening to a tape recording made by Walter McClintock in Montana in the late 1890s as he documented Blackfeet songs and stories about the Old North Trail—the topic of her research. Photograph by Marcella Sherfy.

Interns and Student Volunteers Gain Experience and Help Society

The Society's first August and Mary Sobotka Intern, Maureen Connors is working in the Research Center this summer. A Montana native and a 2005 graduate of the University of Montana, Maureen has been accepted into the graduate program at George Mason University in Virginia where she will focus on archival studies. Maureen will spend her twelve-week internship learning cataloging techniques specific to the unique materials in the Society's collections including maps, videos, periodicals, monographs, manuscripts, and photographs.

Other programs are also benefiting from the work of interns this summer. Helena High School graduate Claire Hilmer, now a junior studying archaeology and soil sciences for a specialization in geoarchaeology at Boston University, is working at the State Historic Preservation Office. In addition, the Museum Program has two summer interns. Helena High School senior Jacob Myles is working with exhibit preparators Todd Saarinen and Doug O'looney on the construction of the exhibit *Neither Empty nor Unknown*. The 4,500-square-foot exhibit, which will focus on life in Montana at the time of Lewis and Clark, is scheduled to open in 2006. Carroll College senior Justin Hendricks is assisting with the administration and general operation of the museum office.

History Happenings

Two new full-time archivists will soon be joining the Society's Research Center. The new archivists will preserve and catalogue the historic records of Montana state government. The Research Center functions as the Montana State Archives and holds over 11,000 linear feet of state records, over 90 percent of which are virtually inaccessible to the public. The 2005 legislature funded the positions, recognizing the significance of the Research Center's collection and the need to improve access to state records.



Montana Historical Society Interpretive Historian Ellen Baumler will offer a number of programs this summer and fall based on her new book, ***Beyond Spirit Tailings: Montana's Mysteries, Ghosts, and Haunted Places***, published by the Society's press. These include tour train ghost tours in Helena on July 21 and August 17; a talk in Bannack on August 20, and a talk at the Festival of the Book in Missoula in late September. She will offer additional programs in Butte on October 12 and Red Lodge on November 7. For more information, or to order your copy of *Beyond Spirit Tailings*,

visit the Press online at <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.com/pub/press/newbooks.asp> or call the Museum Store at 1-800-243-9900.

An **artists' reception** for the Society's newest Lewis-and-Clark-related exhibit, *Painting the Corps:*



The exhibit *Painting the Corps: Artistic Visions of Lewis and Clark*, in the Reflections Gallery through November 2005. Photograph by Tom Ferris.

Artistic Visions of Lewis and Clark, will be held in conjunction with this year's Western Rendezvous of Art. The public is invited to view the show, enjoy refreshments, and meet the artists (many of whom are Rendezvous members) on Thursday afternoon August 18, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Visitors will also have the chance to peruse a companion exhibit mounted in the Society lobby. This exhibit, titled *Portraits of Native America*, pays homage to Montana's first peoples who remained largely unseen as the Corps of Discovery passed through the region's sweeping prairies and majestic mountains.

Call 406-444-4711 for more information about this free event.

The Montana Historical Society awarded **two Bradley Fellowships** for 2005. The fellowship, created through an endowment from an anonymous donor, annually funds scholars wishing to do extensive research using the Society's collections. Laura Woodworth-Ney, Associate Professor of History at Idaho State University and Editor of *Idaho Yesterdays*, will spend four weeks conducting research on the Huntley Irrigation Project. David Miller, Professor of History at Canada's First Nations University in Regina, Saskatchewan, will spend a month investigating the journeys of Cree refugees to and from Montana. Both Bradley fellows plan to submit articles resulting from their research to *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

Debates over fair chase and the canned hunt, abundance and regret, and the connection between hunting and voting rights are among the many topics that will be examined in the **"Wildlife and the West" special issue** of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* appearing in autumn 2005.



The **Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRAB)** held their first-ever joint meeting in West Yellowstone on May 20. Each state in the country has a similar board charged with supporting the preservation of historical records within their state. Although Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho all have active SHRABs that promote educational and other activities related to historic records, these boards have never met jointly. The SHRAB members discussed a variety of issues including legislation, funding, control of state records, Archives Week, and digitization projects. A number of ideas for future cooperative projects resulted from the meeting.



Replica of a boy's breastplate and choker, "Lifeways of Montana's First Peoples." It is just one of the many "please touch" items from the Society's educational footlockers that staff will bring to Lewis and Clark events in Helena and Great Falls.

Society employees are traveling to Great Falls June 29-July 4 to participate in the **Explore! The Big Sky National Lewis and Clark Signature event**. From July 11 to 15, the Society will have a presence at the **National Park Service's traveling Corps II exhibit** at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds in Helena. At the Society's booth at both events, visitors will be able to explore three of the Society's educational footlockers: "Discover the Corps of Discovery: The Lewis and Clark Expedition in Montana"; "Lifeways of Montana's First People"; and "From Traps to Caps: The Montana Fur Trade."

In partnership with eXplorationWorks! the Montana Historical Society's education department will be hosting **Camp Discovery 2005**, from July 11-15, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. Kids ages seven through eleven will engage in hands-on activities to explore the landscape, plants, animals, and people at the time of the Lewis and Clark exploration. Among other activities, campers will make crafts and visit the National Park Service's traveling Corps II exhibit at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$125 for the week. For more information regarding registration and/or available scholarships, call eXplorationWorks! at 406-457-1800.

The Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission has partnered with Department of Transportation, Travel Montana, and the *Great Falls Tribune* to provide **free promotional maps** to businesses and other groups interested in offering them to their customers or visitors interested in the famous expedition. The twelve-by-eighteen-inch color maps show the Lewis and Clark trail in Montana and locations of key events as well as Corps of Discovery II locations across Montana in 2005 and 2006. The colorful maps come on pads with a hundred sheets to a pad, and sixty thousand have been printed. The maps can be easily torn off for use. Anyone interested in receiving a supply can contact Carol Crockett at 406-841-2796, or Rita Cortright at the state Bicentennial Commission at 406-443-2109.



Lewis and Clark promotional map , available through the state Bicentennial Commission.

This spring, the Friends of the Montana Historical Society, the organization of the Montana Historical Society volunteers, established the **Friends' Choice Award** to recognize their favorite article published in the previous year's *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. This year's winner is Dr. **Aaron Parrett** for his article "**Montana's Worst Natural Disaster: The 1964 Flood on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation.**" This article was published in the Summer 2004 issue. Back issues are still available and can be ordered through the Museum Store at 1-800-243-9900 or at <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.com/pub/magazine/Summer2004.asp>.

The Montana Historical Society continued its three-year **partnership with the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative's teacher-enhancement program** in June. The GTCC's "Thinking Through American History" summer institute in Great Falls (June 13-17) included presentations by Julie Saylor of the Education Office (traveling trunks), by Jodie Foley of the Archives program (oral history), and by Research Historian Dave Walter (Jeannette Rankin). The week-long summer institute provided solid American-history content for sixty-five middle-school and high-school teachers from north-central Montana.

Bonnie Morgan has returned to the Museum Program as a part-time, temporary photograph clerk and cataloguer. She is well qualified for the position, having previously worked for the Society not only in the museum, but in the photograph archives and library as well. We also have two other new faces at the Society: **Joann Meredith** and **Kate Lawler**. They are both working part-time in the Museum Store.



An embroidery honoring Helena saloonkeeper Cornelius Kelly, recently donated by the grandchildren of James and Mary Jane McKelvey to the Museum Collection. Photograph by Tom Ferris.

The grandchildren of James and Mary Jane McKelvey **recently donated two embroideries** to the Society. One promotes a "United Ireland" while the other honors Helena saloon-keeper Cornelius Kelly. Family lore maintained that Mary Jane was the needle-worker who created the two pieces, but the dates and other circumstances surrounding their manufacture are a mystery. Upon their arrival at the Society the embroideries—which were donated intact in ornate, vintage frames—were temporarily unframed for cataloguing. At that point, the mystery deepened. Much to everyone's surprise the embroideries are backed with Japanese-language newspapers, one of which bears the heading for the

Osaka, Japan, *Asahi Shimbun* and is dated December 23, 1901. It also bears a stamp that reads: "Hakusui Embroideree." Museum staff are currently conducting research to see if they can determine who actually made the embroideries and how and why they came to be backed in such a manner.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office is hosting its **2005 Preservation Workshop** in Billings on June 26 and 27, 2005. The workshop begins at the beautifully restored Billings Depot at 3:00 p.m., when special guest Valecia Crisafulli, National Trust Associate Director for State and Local Partnerships, will join in the statewide preservation commissioner meeting. The meeting is open to the public. At 6:30 p.m., State Senator Lynda Moss of Billings will share opening remarks. At the reception following, Chere Jiusto, Executive Director of the Montana Preservation Alliance, will announce Montana's Most Endangered List. Monday's sessions will include discussion of the Montana Main Street program; rehabilitation codes for historic buildings; efforts to preserve the night sky; archaeological protection in subdivision development; and more. The National Park Service, Montana Department of Commerce, Billings Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board, Western Heritage Center, Montana Preservation Alliance, and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office are all sponsoring the workshops.

The **Original Governor's Mansion** Restoration Board held a "**Secret Garden Tour**," on Sunday June 5 to raise money for restoration projects. Tour-goers picked up maps that revealed the location of six gardens throughout Helena to be viewed on a self-guided tour. Tickets also included a free tour of the mansion and a catered lunch. In addition there were three seminars on gardening topics, fourteen marketplace vendors selling goods, musical entertainment, and a raffle. Bob Morgan was on hand to personally sign his print, "Montana's First Governor's Mansion." Nearly two hundred people participated in the event, sponsored by Mountain West Bank and supported by numerous businesses and individuals.

Mark your calendars! From September 29 through October 1 the Society will host "**Encounter Montana: The Thirty-second Annual Montana History Conference**." This year's conference will be held at the Helena Great Northern Town Center and will explore the interaction between nature and humans. Talks will focus on the history of hunting, fishing, water issues, forest preserves, ranching/farming, and natural landforms. The schedule also includes talks on quilt registration and textile preservation, Paul Schullery on his book *Searching for Yellowstone*, and the ever-popular medical history panel. Saturday tours of the Helena National Forest will mark the hundredth anniversary of the National Forest Service. For a registration packet, contact 406-444-4789.

The Society's historic architectural specialist, Pete Brown, attended a **historic masonry workshop** from June 6 to June 10. Conducted by the Virginia City Institute, staffed by the Virginia City preservation crew, and managed by the Montana Heritage Commission, the weeklong workshop examined how to repair historic stone buildings that were built with crude mortar and erratically laid stone.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all of the programs are **free, open to the public**, and held at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts.

June 23, 6:30 p.m.: **Shake, Rattle, and Roll in Montana!** The Director of the Earthquake Studies Center at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Dr. Mike Stickney recalls the famous and not-so-famous quakes in Montana in this Thursday at the Society program.

June 30, 6:30 p.m.: **Judge a Capitol by its Cover.** Thursday at the Society features a historic outdoor tour, starting at the Society, of the landscape and exterior of the Montana State Capitol with the Society's tour coordinator, Deb Mitchell.

July 5: Rededication of the Thomas Francis Meagher Statue. Panel discussion begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the State Capitol. At 4:00 p.m. the centennial and rededication ceremony will begin with a procession to the statue, featuring the Montana National Guard Colorguard, bagpipes, and drummers. Following the ceremony, Professor John N. Hearne of Waterford, Ireland, will present an address in the Old Supreme Court Chambers on Meagher's legacy. For more information, call 406-444-4789.

July 11-15, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Camp Discovery 2005. Kids age seven through eleven are invited to discover the wonders of Montana at the time of Lewis and Clark. Cost for the week is \$125. Scholarships are available. Call 406-457-1800 for details. Cosponsored by eXplorationWorks!

August 4, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Under-the-Tent Activity Day. Children ages four through twelve and their families are invited to visit with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' Education Specialist Kurt Cunningham on the Society's front lawn. Kids will have fun as they learn about the critters in Montana and identify the different tracks made by various animals. *Daycare and other large groups: please call 444-4789 so we can better serve you.*

August 18, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Artist Reception, "Painting the Corps." Meet the artists and peruse both the *Painting the Corps* exhibit and the companion exhibit mounted in the Society lobby, *Portraits of Native America*.

September 29-October 1: "Encounter Montana: The Thirty-second Annual Montana History Conference." Helena Great Northern Town Center

Summer Hours

Montana's Museum

Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. \$5 per adult, \$1 per student, \$12 per family

Museum Store

Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. No admission fee.

Research Center

Library and Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holiday weekends. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Capitol Guided Tours

Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 2:00 p.m. Self-guided tour brochures available at the security desk on the first floor upon request. Call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m. \$4 per adult, \$1 per student, \$10 per family. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.